



589
January
2014

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org



IARU President appointed Queen's Counsel

The ARRL reports that the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, was among those appointed Queen's Counsel in the Canadian Province of Alberta.

Attorney General Jonathan Denis, QC, announced the names of 114 lawyers to be admitted as Queen's Counsel for "outstanding contributions to legal and public life." The list includes both public and private sector lawyers who have practiced in communities across the province.

"The Queen's Counsel designation recognizes the exceptional capabilities and talents of this year's impressive group," said Jonathan Denis, Alberta's Minister of Justice and Solicitor General. "These lawyers are a credit to their profession and to their province."

The history of Queen's Counsel dates back to the 16th century. The practice of appointing Queen's Counsel was continued in Canada and predates Confederation. The first Queen's Counsel appointees were admitted in Upper Canada in 1841.

Read the full ARRL story at www.arrl.org/news/iaru-president-appointed-queen-s-counsel-in-alberta



Have **YOU** done anything today to Promote Amateur Radio?

January

1 - New Years Day; start of ARRL Centennial QSO Party; Start of 2014 CQ DX Marathon; start of CDXC DX Marathon Challenge
11 and 12 - Hunting Lions-in-the-Air
13 - SARL Office opens
15 - All schools open
17 to 19 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
18 - SARL@Home
25 - Summer QRP Contest
31 - Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2014 AGM

February

1 and 2 - AWA CW Activity Day
2 - World Wetlands Day
8 and 9 - SARL National Field Day; SARL VHF/UHF Contest
14 Valentine's Day
10 to 15 - SARL Youth Week
15 - SARL Youth Contest
15 and 16 - ARRL International DX CW Contest
23 - SARL Digital Contest

Cycling around the world discovering true Amateur Radio spirit

This is the story of an adventure across countries, continents and cultures, enriched by the spirit of Amateur Radio.

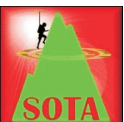
Thomas Andersen, OZ1AA, left Copenhagen by bicycle in October 2010 not knowing what to expect. After more than 20 000 km and three years on the road he learned that there is always a radio amateur around, ready to give a helping hand. More information at www.cyclingtheglobe.com

DX Survey Results (DX Magazine's 2013 Most Wanted Countries Survey)

DX Magazine's has published their Most Wanted Countries from a survey that was conducted in September/October 2013 time frame. Here are the "Top 20" in the overall World-Wide Results as per DX Magazine (Jan/Feb 2014 issue). 2012 ranking in brackets.

- 1 (1) P5 North Korea
- 2 (2) KP1 Navassa Island

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Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



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- 3 (3) 3Y/B Bouvet
- 4 (6) FT5W Crozet
- 5 (4) FT5Z Amsterdam
- 6 (5) VK0/H Heard Island
- 7 (7) BS7H Scarborough
- 8 (9) ZS8M Marion Island
- 9 (8) VP8/S South Sandwich
- 10 (10) FT5T Tromelin Island
- 11 (14) KH5 Palmyra
- 12 (12) KH5K Kingman Reef
- 13 (18) FR/JE Juan de Nova/Europa
- 14 (17) BV9P Pratas Island
- 15 (16) E3 Eritrea
- 16 (21) KH9 Wake Island
- 17 (19) VP8/G South Georgia
- 18 (20) KH3 Johnston Island
- 19 (22) CEOX San Felix
- 20 (23) KH7K Kure Island

Carl, N4AA, Editor of QRZ DX/DX Magazine, states, "It is interesting to note that the same ten places are there for both 2012 and 2013... there are a few slight changes in ranking, but it is the same ten. That should change somewhat for 2014 with Tromelin and Amsterdam both scheduled for major DXpeditions." The full list of the top 100 Most Wanted, World-Wide, are posted to the DX Publishing Web site at <http://www.dxpub.net/MOST-WANTED-SURVEY.html>

The continental rankings are in the January/February issue of the DX Magazine which is in the mail now. The band/mode breakdowns will be published in the March/April 2014 issue.

2013 Intrepid-Spirit Award (Press Release - Seeking nominations)

Paul Ewing, N6PSE, President of the Intrepid-DX Group, reports: "The Intrepid-DX Group is seeking nominations for the individual or group that most displayed their 'Intrepid Spirit' this past year. The Intrepid Spirit for purposes of this award is defined as - "An Intrepid Spirit is bold, courageous, dedicated, innovative, fearless, generous, resolute and visionary in their approach to Amateur Radio."

We are seeking to make this award to the group or individual that most displayed their intrepid spirit in 2013, by expressing an unshakable commitment to the Amateur Radio DX Community. This award is made in memory of our friend, James McLaughlin WA2EWE/T6AF, SK, Kabul Afghanistan, 27 April 2011.

Nominations may be submitted via email to intrepiddxgroup@gmail.com. All nominations must be received by 31 January 2014. The Board of Directors of the Intrepid-DX Group will evaluate the nominations and the award will be presented at the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, on 5 April 2014.

The 2012 Intrepid-Spirit Award was awarded to Silvano Borsa, I2YSB, Leader of the Italian DXpedition Team.

The Intrepid-DX Group was formed in 2010 following our successful DXpedition to Iraq. Since then, Intrepid-DX Group members have organized or participated in DXpeditions to South Sudan, Rotuma, Ethiopia, Somalia, Conway Reef, Yemen, Wake Island and Myanmar. You can view our website at <http://www.intrepid-dx.com>.

Yesteryear Marine Beacons and today's communications

The annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend in August aims to raise public awareness of the need to preserve old marine beacons, promote modern Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill.

So far nearly 140 registrations have been received from 23 countries stretching from

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South, Central and North America, across to Oceania, Asia, Africa and throughout Europe.

One of the latest registrations was built in the 19th century; the square shaped tower of Brazil's Cristovao Pereira Lighthouse that will be on air as ZV3CP.

The objective of this fun-event is for individuals or groups to set up portable stations at a lighthouse, lightship or marine beacon, for part or all of the designated weekend in August.

Some are in disrepair or the target of vandalism. This is where Amateur Radio portable operations can help draw the attention to the need for heritage protection and restoration of beacons to their former glory.

For the guidelines or to make an online registration for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend on 16 and 17 August, visit the website www.illw.net



Islands on the Air

IOTA 50th Anniversary Convention. Bookings are now being accepted for the IOTA's Golden Jubilee Convention that will be held at Beaumont House, Windsor over the weekend of 4 to 6 July. Go to www.rsqbevents.org where you will find the booking module. A website is under construction at www.rsgb.org/iota50, which is expected to be fully operational during January.

IOTA Annual Update. Updates for the Honour Roll and other annual listings must be sent on or before 31 January. IOTA rules limit inclusion in the listings to those participants who have updated their scores at least once in the preceding five years and have opted to have their scores published. Listing in the 2014 tables will be restricted to those participants who have updated their scores since February 2009.

International Museum weekends 2014

The 2014 IMW will take place on the two weekends of 14 and 15 and 21 and 22 June. More details about the event, its history and how to register to take part can be found at <http://www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw/>. There is absolutely no cost involved for taking part, nor is there any cost for the range of IMW Awards.

CQ's DX "Wallpaper" by Wayne Mills, N7NG

CQ has always been more than just a magazine, supplementing our writing about being active on the air with a comprehensive program of operating awards and contests to encourage greater activity levels. Many of our awards are focused on DXing. Here's a brief introduction to these award programs:

Worked All Zones (WAZ)

Our oldest, best-known and most-challenging award, WAZ is actually older than CQ itself, dating back to 1934, when it was started by one of our predecessor magazines, R9. The award is earned by making confirmed contacts with stations in each of the 40 CQ Zones of the World. The zone boundaries are virtually unchanged since the award's introduction, even though many of the countries and their borders have changed, sometimes more than once.

In addition to the basic mixed mode WAZ, single-mode and single-band awards are also available. Modes include AM, CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, Digital, Satellite and EME (Earth-Moon-Earth); single-band awards are available for each amateur band between 160 and 6 metres (except 60 metres).

One of the reasons WAZ is so challenging is that there is no introductory level for the basic award or most of its specialized awards - you must work all 40 zones to qualify. Beyond that basic level, there are additional awards for 5-Band WAZ (one ham so far has earned WAZ on 11 bands!).

For more information and complete rules, visit http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_waz_awards/index_cq_waz_award.html.

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CQ DX Awards

Often eclipsed by the ARRL's better-known DXCC program, CQ's DX awards have unique challenges that set them apart. There are three separate sections of the CQ DX Award Program.

Traditional CQ DX Award

Initial qualification for the traditional CQ DX Award requires confirmed contacts with at least 100 DX entities, but unlike DXCC, there is no mixed mode CQ DX Award, so all contacts must be on CW, SSB or RTTY (separate awards are given for each mode). In addition, there are single-band awards, as well as endorsements for QRP (low power), mobile, slow-scan TV and satellite contacts. Those stations with 275 or more confirmed active countries are eligible for the CQ DX Honour Roll. For complete rules and more details, see http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_dx_awards/cq_dx_award/cq_dx_award_official_rules.html.

CQ DX Field Award

Based on the Maidenhead grid system familiar to VHF DXers and most European DXers, the CQ DX Field Award recognizes confirmed contacts with stations in at least 50 Maidenhead grid fields - the 10 × 20-degree geographic boxes denoted by the first two letters in a grid locator (e.g., FM or JN). Qualifying for the basic level of this award is of similar difficulty to qualifying for the basic level of DXCC or the CQ DX Award.

The CQ DX Field Award does offer a mixed-mode category, along with CW, SSB and Digital single-mode awards. Endorsements are the same as for the traditional award, and membership on the CQ DX Field Award Honour Roll is available to those DXers with confirmed contacts in at least 175 of the globe's 324 total grid fields.

Additional details and complete rules are at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_dx_awards/cq_dx_field_award/cq_dx_field_award.html.

CQ iDX Award

Patterned after the now-mostly-discontinued Novice versions of various awards for new DXers, the CQ iDX Award is designed to help create a DXing "mindset" among newer amateurs. It recognizes contacts with at least 25 DX "entities" (countries) using internet-linked repeater systems, such as Echolink, IRLP or D-STAR. Traditional QSLs are not required, and the maximum endorsement level for this award is 100 countries.

For rules and details, visit http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_dx_awards/cq_idx_award/2011_11_cq_idx_award.pdf.

CQ DX Marathon

The CQ DX Marathon is a hybrid award and contest. Unlike traditional ham radio contests, the DX Marathon is not limited to a single weekend but runs all year long. And unlike traditional ham radio awards, the DX Marathon starts anew each January 1 and each competitor begins with a clean slate. You earn one point for each DX "entity" worked and one point for each CQ Zone worked. Whoever has the most points at the end of the year wins. It's that simple! But the competition can get quite intense, especially as the end of the year approaches. There are several competition categories so be sure to check out the 2014 rules in the December 2013 issue of CQ or on the web at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_dx_marathon_contest/index_cq_dx_marathon_contest.html.

CQ WPX Awards

The WPX Awards are not specifically DX awards, but it's pretty hard to earn even the basic levels without having a good number of DX contacts in your log. This award is for contacting stations with different call sign prefixes (the initial letters and the numerals), with a basic level of 400 prefixes for the mixed award and 300 for single-mode awards (CW, Digital, SSB). Band and continent endorsements are available, and the CQ WPX Honour Roll recognizes those program participants with 600 or more confirmed prefixes. As of now,

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WPX is the only CQ award which is supported by the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) online confirmation system. Complete rules and additional details are available at http://www.cq-amateurradio.com/cq_awards/cq_wpx_awards/cq_wpx_awards.html.

Confirmations

Confirmations are required for all CQ awards (except the CQ DX Marathon). We accept traditional QSL cards and "authenticity guaranteed" eQSL confirmations for all awards, and Logbook of the World credits only for the WPX Award. Confirmations for the CQ iDX Award may be traditional, via eQSL or via e-mail. See rules for complete details.

Now Get on the Air!

So there you have a quick rundown of the many different DX award options available from CQ. Of course, our many contests provide great opportunities to get on the air with a whole bunch of other DXers and tote up credits toward all of these awards. For our annual contest calendar, see http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html.

Note: CQ also offers the USA-CA Award for contacting United States counties. Since this is a US-only award, we will not describe it here. But details may be found on the web at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_awards/cq_usa_ca_awards/cq_usa_ca_awards.html

African DX

5V, Togo. Operators Phil, F5MVB, and Joel, F5AOW, are planning to be active as 5V7MP and 5V7BJ, respectively, from Avepozo sometime in 2014. Details on bands/modes and dates have not been announced yet, but are forthcoming. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.



C5, The Gambia. Pedro, ON7WP (C5WP), and Andre, ON7YK (C5YK), will most likely be the only operators holding permanent licenses in The Gambia in 2014. Pedro plans to get on the air from the 11th to the 15th from the village Buntu where he does volunteer work in a social project. His rig consists of a 100 W transceiver, a spiderbeam, and V-antennas towards USA and Europe. This is an off-grid location with presumably good RX conditions on the low bands. Pedro then moves to Kololi and operate from 16 to 22. For QSL information see qrz.com. <http://www.smilegambia.org/>

C9, Mozambique. Karel, ZS6ALB, has moved to Matola in Mozambique and holds the calls C91KHN and C91C (for contests). He will be active from 13 January onwards on 40 to 10 m on SSB and digital modes. QSL direct via homecall, LoTW, ClubLog.

African Islands

Diego Garcia, Chagos Islands, VQ9XR. Bob, N7XR, states, "Twice during 2014, we'll operate from Diego Garcia as VQ9XR on all bands - 160 to 6 m. Operation will include Phone, CW and RTTY. During the second trip, Mike Mraz, N6MZ will be coming along to help on all bands. We're might get lucky and have one of the resident shipboard operators there as well. The dates are currently unknown because of scheduling; however, each trip will average approximately 3 weeks in duration.



Dave Patton, NN1N, will be the QSL Manager. Logs will be posted to LoTW within 6 - 12 months of the trip. NO BUREAU QSLs. Donations are always welcomed via PayPal (see Web page). All antennas and small items will be left on the island with the MWR folks to assist future Amateur Operations. All donations will be used for both VQ9 and WH9.

Zanzibar Island, AF-032. A group of Italian operators will be active as 5IODX and 5H3AN from an Italian village at the Kiwengwa Beach Resort on Zanzibar Island (WWF 5HFF-003) between 2 and 13 February. Activity



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will be on all HF bands 160-10 meters, including the 30, 17 and 12 metre bands, using CW, SSB, PSK (31/63/125) and RTTY.

Current operators mentioned are Fred, IK7JWX, Leo, I8LWL, Ampelio, ISOAGY, Vincenzo, IZ8LFI, Elvira, IV3FSG (YL) and Fulvio, HB9DHG (CW op).

Look for 5IODX to participate in the CQ WPX RTTY Contest (8 and 9 February).

More details and a Web page will be announced. It was announced earlier that this DXpedition will also be a humanitarian operation with donations of medicines to the "Italy Day Hospital". QSL via IK7JWX, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW and NetLog. They are looking for sponsors for donations to Radio Club of Dar Es Salaam and Italy Day Hospital of Zanzibar - 1/2 Poste Pay Card (Visa Electron) nr. 4023600649350826 to Alfredo De Nisi - Vico della Cavallerizza, 4/D-73100 LECCE. Currently, updates are available on QRZ.com.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 6 to 13 January 2014

QRP Fox Hunt

02:00 - 03:30 UTC 10 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and state, province or country and name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 11 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint Ladder

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m

Classes: Single Op

Max power: 100 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KL7 and KH6) once per band; Each VE province once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

YL-ISSB SSB QSO Party

00:00 UTC, Jan 11 to 23:59 UTC 12 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: All

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RS(T), name, state, province or country and YLISB no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 21 March 2014

E-mail logs to: ve1jim@ns.sympatico.ca

Mail logs to: Jim Flowers, VE1JIM, 13 Rufus Ave, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3N 2L4, Canada

Find rules at: <http://www.ylssystem.org/qsoparty/qsodates.htm>

Old New Year Contest

05:00 - 09:00 UTC 11 January

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed - low or high; Single Op On Air 50 Years - low or high; Club - low or high; SWL

Exchange: RST, sum of operator age and years on the air

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: Copied age and experience

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 26 January 2014

E-mail logs to: contest@radio.ru

Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: <http://www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index7.shtml>

MI QRP January CW Contest

12:00 UTC 11 January to 23:59 UTC 12 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: 250 mW; 250 mW - 1 W; 1 - 5 W; 5 W

Exchange: Members: RST, state, province or country and membership no; non-Members: RST, state, province or country and power output

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 5 points per QSO with members; 2 points per QSO with non-member W/VE stations; 4 points per QSO with non-member DX stations

Multipliers: Each state, province or country, once per band

Bonus: multiply total points by 1,25 if xmtr or receiver is homebrew; multiply total points by 1,5 if both xmtr and receiver are homebrew

Score Calculation: Total score = bonus multiplier x total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 26 January 2014

E-mail logs to: n8xx@arrl.net

Mail logs to: Hank Greeb, N8XX, 5727 11 Mile Rd. NE, Rockford, MI 49341, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub/contest.html>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon

12:00 UTC 11 January to 24:00 UTC 12 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and SKCC no or "NONE"

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 19 January 2014

Post log summary at: <http://wes.m0trn.com/submission.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

UK DX BPSK63 Contest

12:00 UTC 11 January to 11:59 UTC 12 January

Mode: BPSK63

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Single

Max power: HP: 100 watts; LP: 10 watts

Exchange: RSQ and 4-digit DXDA number

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: UK station: 1 point per QSO; non-UK station: 1 point per QSO with non-UK station; non-UK station: 3 points per QSO with UK station

Multipliers: Each DXDA territory once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 11:59 UTC 17 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ukdx.srars.org/ukdxc-psk-rules-2013.pdf>

North American CW QSO Party

18:00 UTC 11 January to 05:59 UTC 12 January

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op (QRP/Low); Multi-Two (Low)

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 05:59 UTC 19 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplotsubmit/>

Mail logs to: Chris Hurlbut, KL9A, 1733 E. Broad Ave., Spokane, WA 99207, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

NRAU-Baltic CW Contest

06:30 - 08:30 UTC 12 January

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Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Op
Max power: HP: 100

watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RST, serial no and 2-letter region

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO

Multipliers: Each region, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 January 2014

E-mail logs to: nrau2014@lral.lv

Upload log at: <http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/nrau-baltic-contest/rules.html>

DARC 10-Metre Contest

09:00 - 10:59 UTC 12 January

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: DL Single Op CW - low or high; DL Single Op Mixed - low or high; non-DL Single Op CW; non-DL Single Op Mixed

Max power: HP: 100 W; LP: 100 W

Exchange: DL: RS(T), QSO no and DOK; non-DL: RS (T) and QSO no

Work stations: Once only

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each WAE/DXCC country once; Each DOK once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 January 2014

E-mail logs to: 10m@dxhf.darc.de

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/10m/en/rules/>

NRAU-Baltic SSB Contest

09:00 - 11:00 UTC 12 January

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high; Multi-Op

Max power: HP: 100 watts; LP: 100 watts

Exchange: RS, serial no and 2-letter region

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO

Multipliers: Each region, once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 19 January 2014

E-mail logs to: nrau2014@lral.lv

Upload log at: <http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.nrau.net/nrau-baltic-contest/rules.html>

Next Weeks Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 15 January

AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest, 23:00 UTC 15 January to 23:00 UTC 16 January and 23:00 UTC 18 January to 23:00 UTC 19 January

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 01:30 - 03:30 UTC 16 January

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 17 January

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 17 January

LZ Open Contest, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 18 January

Hungarian DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 18 January to 11:59 UTC 19 January

North American SSB QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 18 January to 05:59 UTC 19 January

Feld Hell Sprint, 20:00 UTC 18 January to 03:00 UTC 19 January

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 20 January

88, Or How Telegraphers Coded 'Love and Kisses'

What humans will do to save themselves from typing a few characters: LOL. ROTFL. TTYL.

Well, imagine that each character had to be tapped down the line in Morse code. Telegraph operators had even more incentive to cut down on letters than did even the T9 texters of yore.

And so they came up with codes to communi-

cate the things that they needed to say often. These were first codified by Walter P. Phillips into what became known as the Phillips Code in 1879 <http://www.radions.net/philcode.htm>. (It was updated several times, the last I found in 1975.)

Nearly all of these codes are now obsolete.

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But there is a small group of hobbyists who keep a few them alive. Amateur radio enthusiasts still use at least a couple of these abbreviations to this day as detailed by Glen Zook, K9STH, www.signalharbor.com/73.html, in a widely reproduced brief history that relies on a 1934 Navy bulletin on the origins of '73.'

WIRE- Preference over everything except 95

- 1- Wait a moment
- 2- Important business
- 3- What time is it?
- 4- Where shall I go ahead?
- 5- Have you business for me?
- 6- I am ready
- 7- Are you ready?
- 8- Close your key; ckt is busy
- 9- Close your key for priority business (wire chief, dspr, etc.)
- 10- Keep this ckt closed
- 12- Do you understand?
- 13- I understand
- 14- What is the weather?
- 15- For you and and other to copy
- 17- Lightning here
- 18- What is the trouble?
- 19- Form 19 train order
- 21- Stop for meal
- 22- Wire test
- 23- All copy
- 24- Repeat this back
- 25- Busy on anr wire
- 26- Put on gnd wire
- 27- Priority, very important

- 28- Do you get my writing?
- 29- Private, deliver in sealed envelope.
- 30- No more -end
- 31- Form 31 train order
- 32- I understand that I am to
- 33- Car report (Also, answer is paid for)
- 34- Msg for all officers
- 35- You may use my signal to ans this
- 37- Diversion (Also, inform all interested)
- 39- Important, with priority on thru wire. (Also, sleep-car report)
- 44- Answer promptly by wire
- 73- Best regards
- 88- Love and kisses
- 91- Supt's signal
- 92- Deliver promptly
- 93- Vice pres. & gen. mgr's signals
- 95- President's signal
- 134- Who is at the key?

The list - a decidedly non-sexy counterpart to the telegraph's sexytime abbreviations <http://mentalfloss.com/article/53690/11-sexting-acronyms-1930s> - is mostly dedicated to basic traffic direction: stopping, going, clearing wires, assigning importance, etc. But 73 and 88 are different. They are ways of compressing sentiment, and helpful, I'm sure, in sending messages quickly across the wire.

Put another way: 88 was the fastest possible way to transmit love. It was the emoji heart of its day. (It's something else today, sadly.)

History this week - starting 6 January 2014

- 1404 - English alchemists were forbidden to use their knowledge to create precious metals.
- 1610 - Galileo dated his first letter describing telescopic observations in which he saw the moon's cratered surface.
- 1799 - Income Tax (temporary) introduced in UK at 10% to pay for Napoleonic Wars.
- 1816 - Sir Humphry Davy's safety lamp was first used in a coal mine.
- 1820 - Stainless steel invented by a French metallurgist.
- 1878 - The first demonstration of A G Bell's telephone to Queen Victoria at her Osborne House estate on the Isle of Wight.
- 1894 - "Edison Kinetoscopic Record of a Sneeze" released in movie theatres
- 1906 - First radio set advertised (Telimco for \$7.50 in Scientific American) claimed to receive signals up to one mile

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